

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5415

INFO USCINCEUR PRIORITY

DEPT OF ARMY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, TC

SUBJ: TRAINING/ORIENTATION TOUR

REF: (A) 76 STATE 301874, (B) 76 ABU DHABI 3202

1. DCM HAD FURTHER OCCASION DURING MEETING WITH GEN. KHALDI DECEMBER 27 AND WITH HIS DEPUTY, COL. MUHAMMAD AL-BADI, DECEMBER 30 TO REVIEW SUBJECT OF ORIENTATION TOUR FOR UAE DEFENSE FORCE OFFICER PERSONNEL WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS.

2. GENERAL KHALDI DEFINITELY PREFERS THAT FMS ROUTE BE FOLLOWED. HE BELIEVES, AND EMBASSY CONCURS, THAT LEAVING MOST OF ARRANGEMENTS TO UAE DF GROUP AS WOULD BE REQUIRED UNDER SELF-INVITED VISIT WOULD ONLY RESULT IN CONFUSION. EVEN ON QUESTION OF COST, KHALDI BELIEVES THERE WOULD BE GREATER PROBLEMS WITH PRESENTING CONTINUING SERIES OF BILLS TO INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS THAN WITH ONE ACCOUNTING VIA FMS. KHALDI APPRECIATED POINT STRESSED BY DCM THAT UNDER LATTER ALTERNATIVE ALL COSTS INCLUDING THOSE OF ESCORT OFFICER WOULD BE BORNE BY UAE DF. BUT PARTICULARLY IF THIS CAN BE HANDLED BWTWEEN
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EMBASSY AND KHALDI'S HEADQUARTERS AS WAS THE CASE OF WEBBING SALE, HE STATED THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

3. RE NATURE OF TOUR DESIRED KHALDI STRESSED WITH SOME FEELING THE PROBLEM HE FACED IN VIEW OF LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITHIN UAE DF OF US MILITARY METHODS AND EQUIPMENT. BRITISH, FRENCH, ETC., SYSTEMS ARE KNOWN

BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO EXPOSURE TO US MILITARY. KHALDI IS CONVINCED THAT ONCE SENIOR LOCAL OFFICIERS HAVE CHANCE TO SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER--TO MEET COUNTER-PART OFFICERS, TOUR SCHOOLS, SEE VARIOUS WEAPONS--THEY WILL BE IMPRESSED AND WILL BE RESPONSIVE WHEN HE URGES THAT US FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY BE UTILIZED BY UAE DF. WITH THIS VIEW IN MIND, GEN. KHALDI HOPES THAT SOMETHING A BIT SPECIAL CAN BE ORGANIZED FOR THIS TOUR. HE ASSUMES IN FIRST PLACE THAT, GIVEN SIZE OF UAE GROUP (STILL AROUND TEN OFFICERS), THEY WILL PROCEED AS SEPARATE TOUR RATHER THAN AS PART OF PACKAGE EFFORT INVOLVING NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES, WHICH KHALDI NOTES IS PRACTICE OFTEN FOLLOWED WITH SMALL CONTINGENTS. SECOND HE HOPES THAT SOME NON-MILITARY SIGHTSEEING--I.E. WEST COAST, GRAND CANYON AND THE LIKE--CAN BE WORKED IN WITH VISITS TO BASES. MOST IF NOT ALL OF OFFICERS WILL HAVE NEVER BEEN TO US BEFORE AND THUS SHOULD GET AS BROAD AN EXPOSURE AS POSSIBLE.

4. AS FOR SPECIFIC POINTS OF INTEREST, COL. AL-BADI LISTED FOLLOWING AS INSTALLATIONS WHICH GROUP WOULD LIKE TO VISIT: WEST POINT, FT. LEAVENWORTH, FT. SILL, FT. KNOX, FT. BENNING AND FT. BLISS. GROUP WOULD HOPE TO LEAVE UAE ABOUT THIRD WEEK IN MARCH (THOUGH THIS SUBJECT TO OUR SCHEDLING SUGGESTIONS) AND WOULD PLAN TO SPEND ROUGHLY ONE MONTH IN US INCLUDING UP TO TEN DAYS OF SIGHTSEEING. OBVIOUSLY, AS PER PARA 3 ABOVE, IT IS DESIRED FOR GROUP TO SEE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT EMPHASIS IS CLEARLY ON POSSIBILITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR OFFICER TRAINING AS THEY EXIST IN US. GEN. KHALDI WANTS THEM TO SEE HOW WE DEVELOP OUR OFFICER CORPS AND VARIETIES OF SPECIFIC TRAINING POSSIBILITIES THAT UAE DF MIGHT TAP INTO. CLEARLY IN VISITS TO COMBAT ARMS CENTERS -- E.G. KNOX, BENNING, SILL--THEY WILL BE INTERESTED IN SEEING BASIC INFANTRY AND CLOSE SUPPORT WEAPONS, INCLUDING FIRE POWER DEMONSTRATION AS POSSIBLE, BUT THIS IS NOT SHOPPING TOUR.

5. AS FOR PARTICIPANTS, LIST IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. COL. SHAIKH SULTAN BIN ZAYED, SECOND SON OF UAE PRESIDENT AND RULER OF ABU DHABI SHAIKH ZAYED, STILL HOPES TO GO (COL. AL-BADI PUT ODDS AT 90 PERCENT IN FAVOR BUT THIS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE DEFINITELY CONFIRMED UNTIL LAST MINUTE). OTHERS, AS INDICATED REF (B) WILL BE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS COMMANDS OF UAE DF. WE ANTICIPATE HIGHEST RANK WILL BE COLONEL (ALTHOUGH IF THAT INDIVIDUAL IS FROM ROYAL FAMILY AS IN CASE OF COL. SHAIKH SULTAN IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD BE

GIVEN GENERAL OFFICER TREATMENT). AS FOR LANGUAGE ABILITY, IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING AND PARTICULARLY UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH IS RECOGNIZED BY UAE DF, BUT LEVEL OF COMPETENCE IS LIKELY TO BE MIXED AND IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIREABLE IF ESCORT OFFICER WERE ARABIC SPEAKER WITH MIDDLE EAST EXPERIENCE.

6. COMMENT/ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES' REACTIONS TO ABOVE INCLUDING ANY ALTERNATE OR ADDITIONAL STOPS THAT MIGHT APPEAR APPROPRIATE. WE BELIEVE PURPOSES OF TRIP STRESSED BY GEN. KHALDI-- BASICALLY A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXERCISE WITH A MILITARY FLAVOR--MAKE EMINENT SENSE. WE HOPE TOUR CAN BE ORGANIZED THAT IS BIT SPECIAL, THAT REFLECTS FIRST TIME NATURE OF THIS EXERCISE AND RELATIVE INEXPERIENCE OF UAE DF. NO ONE SHOULD EXAGGERATE EITHER SIGNIFICANCE OF UAE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT NOR INFER THAT WE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEKING MAJOR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT HERE. BUT IN CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY, COAGULATION OF DIFFERENT ARMED FORCES IN UAE IS IMPORTANT AND WE BELIEVE THERE ARE AREAS--TRAINING IN PARTICULAR-- WHERE WE CAN APPROPRIATELY BE HELPFUL.
DICKMAN

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